

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-45 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 23, 38 and 40 are independent. By this Amendment, claims 1, 23, 38 and 40 are amended. No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In paragraph three (3) of the Final Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8-10, 16, 23, 24, 31, 38 and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,064 to Mogi ("Mogi").

Mogi discloses a video camera apparatus in which an initialization operation is performed for the optical system before photography is started. However, in Mogi, the lens controlling microcomputer 115 (i.e., a so-called second system controller) controls the lens system in accordance with a control signal from the microcomputer 125 (i.e., a so-called first system controller). In other words, the lens controlling microcomputer 115 depends on the microcomputer 125 to control the lens system.

As Applicants explained in the previous amendment filed October 31, 2003, one of the aspects of the present invention as featured in independent claims 1, 23 and 38 is that the control operation of the second system controller does not depend on the operation of the first system controller when the power of the first system controller is turned on. As a result, when the power of the first system controller is turned on, the second system controller can begin the control operation without receiving any control signal from the first system controller. This enables the

electronic device (e.g., a digital camera) to enter an image-sensing stand-by status within a short period. See, for example, page 25, lines 11-20 of the original specification.

Accordingly, each of independent claims 1, 23 and 38 is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of Mogi for at least the reasons discussed above.

Nonetheless, Applicants amended claims 1, 23 and 38 to further clarify this aspect of the invention, i.e., the control operation of the second system controller does not depend on the operation of the first system controller when the power of the first system controller is turned on. For example, claim 1 as amended recites “wherein said second system controller does not require a control signal from said first system controller to begin the control of said mechanical driving member.” Other independent claims 23 and 38 are amended in a similar fashion.

In paragraph four (4) of the Final Office Action, claims 40-44 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,157,394 to Anderson (“Anderson”).

Claim 40 has been amended for further clarification. In particular, claim 40 as amended recites that “wherein each of the initializations of said mechanical drive means, said signal processing means, and said file system means does not require a control signal from each other.”

Anderson, on the other hand, does not suggest this aspect of claim 40 as amended. Accordingly, claim 40 as amended is believed to be patentable over Anderson for at least this reason.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 23, 38 and 40 under §103(a) is respectfully requested.

Applicants have not individually addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because the independent claims from which they respectively depend are in condition for allowance as set forth above. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address such rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary.

Applicants believe that the application as amended is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 dated June 1, 2004
Reply to the Final Office Action of January 30, 2004

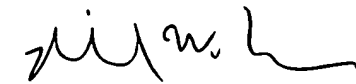
AUTHORIZATION

In the event that an extension of time is required, or may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4578. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: June 1, 2004

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